



# Rebuilding Afghanistan

Weekly Activity Update for April 7 – April 20  
Issue 54

United States Agency for International Development

## STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNMENT

### Program Goals

- Support the Bonn process: the Constitutional, Human Rights, and Judicial Commissions; the 2004 elections; and a free and independent media.
- Strengthen government budgeting, revenue generation (e.g., customs), monetary management, private-sector related legal and regulatory frameworks, and promote private enterprises.
- Build capacity to carry out other legitimate government functions and support reconstruction of health, judicial, education, economic, agricultural and transportation infrastructure.

### Recent Progress:

- **One Year of Independent Radio:** Afghanistan's first privately licensed radio station, Arman FM, celebrates one year of broadcasting in Kabul this month. The USAID-funded station has a lively format of music, talk radio, news and sports. It has recently launched a Top-40 music countdown, and a program called, "Young People and Their Problems." Only a year after its inception, Arman is a self-sustaining, commercial radio station, providing public service announcements for programs such as Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) and one bringing Afghan professionals from abroad.
- **Media Milestone:** Internews launched the 15th station in their USAID-funded network, surpassing the original goal of establishing 14 stations. A ceremony opened the Radio Nadai-Sub in Ghorian district of Herat on April 7. The Ghorian District Governor, Fazal Ahmad Zakri, and several hundred people attended.

### Recent Progress (continued):



*Sanjar Qiam, Radio Network Coordinator for Internews, addressing dignitaries and community members at the opening of Radio Nadai-Sub in Ghorian, Herat.*



*Afghans listening to the radio broadcast..*

## REVITALIZING AGRICULTURE/CREATING JOBS

### Program Goals

- Increased marketable output of \$250 million in agriculture
- More than 500,000 farm family beneficiaries
- A reliable source of water provided to more than 500,000 hectares of land through irrigation rehabilitation
- 1,000 km of improved village feeder roads rehabilitated.
- Construction of over 100 village agricultural market centers.

### Recent Progress

USAID's Rebuilding Agricultural Markets Program (RAMP) is a three-year program aimed at enhancing the food security and incomes of Afghanistan's rural population. It has two principal objectives, to increase agricultural productivity and output, and to facilitate effective linkages between producers, processors and markets. The program's budget is \$150 million.

- **Building Capacity to Implement Micro-Finance Loans:** In recent months, as Afghanistan moves towards building a national micro-finance institution, the Government of Afghanistan is interested in building its capacity in microfinance. To this end, USAID trained over 80 field staff from the Ministry for Rehabilitation and Rural Development in the area of micro-finance. *(continued)*

### Recent Progress (continued):



*Loan officer training in Kabul.*

**Micro-Finance (continued):** The training was a joint effort with the World Bank's Consultative Group to Assist the Poorest (CGAP), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and Britain's Department for International Development (DfID). The course participants received three days of training in basic microfinance methodologies and best practices and visited a microfinance institution in Kabul.

## REVITALIZING AGRICULTURE/CREATING JOBS

### Recent Progress

- **On-Farm Demonstrations:** One RAMP project is using on-farm demonstrations to enhance local productivity and eventually raise rural incomes. Farmers observed improved varieties of field and vegetable crops adapted to local conditions as well as irrigation, water management and fertilizing techniques that are more efficient and effective in 27 districts of Kunduz, Nangarhar, Parwan, Ghazni and Helmand. The demonstrations aim to help productivity and generate income, while at the same time, conserve the resource base and protect the environment.

*Map to the right: On-farm demonstrations taking place near Lashkar Gah, Helmand. Each point represents one demonstration farm.*

### Recent Progress (continued):



## INCREASING ACCESS TO BASIC HEALTH CARE

### Program Goals

- 400 health centers renovated or constructed in rural areas, providing services to an estimated 12 million people.
- 11 million beneficiaries assured improved access to basic services in 13 provinces; 4.4 million women and children given access to services through USAID's health care initiative grants.
- 3,400 new community health workers, 990 midwives, and 6,000 clinic staff trained.
- Make safe water systems, contraceptives, mosquito nets and other health products available at reasonable prices using existing trading and marketing systems.
- Strengthen MOH capacity at the national and provincial levels for guiding effective health care policy; develop a public health education program; determine a sustainable health finance policy; strengthen human resource development; improve hospital management; and expand and improve the HMIS.

### Recent Progress:

The USAID-funded REACH (Rural Expansion of Afghanistan's Community-Based Healthcare) program aims to improve the health of women of reproductive age and children under 5 years of age through increased use of basic health services in rural areas.

- **Improving Basic Health for Afghans:** President Karzai, with the Ambassador of the United States and the Minister of Health, announced at a press conference USAID's commitment to construct or rehabilitate 378 clinics by the end of 2004 in order to expand the delivery of the basic health services to Afghans. In total 150 existing clinics will be refurbished and 228 will be newly constructed. Seventy-eight clinics are currently under construction.
- **First New REACH Clinic:** The Minister of Health, the Deputy Minister of Martyrs and Disabled, the US Embassy Chargé D'affaire and USAID inaugurated the Qala-e-Qazi Basic Health Center (BHC), the first of the new clinics constructed this year. The Qala-e-Qazi clinic, located north of Kabul, will deliver basic primary health services to the surrounding rural community.

### Recent Progress (continued):



*New clinic constructed under the REACH program.*



*Children view inauguration ceremony through clinic gate.*



*Ribbon cutting ceremony with officials from the Ministry of Health and US Embassy.*